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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 6:25 AM
To: Spurling, Norman
Cc: Panger, Melissa
Subject: FW: Loss report for gray fox in Fresno County
Attachments: P2801.pdf

Here's another rodenticide exposure incident.

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 5:21 PM
To: fresnoag@co.fresno.ca.us; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Kratville, David@CDFA; Miller, Robert
Subject: Loss report for gray fox in Fresno County

Hello, Please find attached a loss report for a gray fox in Fresno County. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks.

Stella

Stella McMillin
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Office 916-358-2954
Cell 916-531-9683



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2801
CAHFS D1405974

Date of loss: May 19, 2014
Species: Gray fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
Listing status: No special status

To: Les Wright,
Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: June 23, 2014

Remarks

Investigation of loss of gray fox in Fresno County.

Background

A gray fox near Sky Ranch Road was reportedly acting strangely and the CHP was called to respond in case it was rabid. A US Forest Service employee arrived on the scene and observed the fox for about 10 minutes. It was running in circles, hypersalivating, twitching violent and acting aggressively towards people. The fox was dispatched by gunshot by the CHP officer and was sent to CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine cause of death and was kept frozen until necropsy. This fox is of particular concern because it is located in close proximity to the southern Sierra population of fishers, a species being considered for listing.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The necropsy was performed at CAHFS, Davis on May 23, 2014. The fox was found to be an adult female in good nutritional condition. Trauma consistent with a gunshot was observed in the chest. The fox showed encephalitis and other brain changes consistent with canine distemper virus. Canine distemper virus was confirmed with immunohistochemistry. Tests for rabies and *Toxoplasma gondii* were negative. Liver tissue submitted for anticoagulant rodenticide analysis contained 0.21 ppm brodifacoum and a trace of bromadiolone, indicating nontarget exposure. Canine distemper virus is fatal in gray foxes and was the presumptive cause of death.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

Stella McMillin

Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Approved



**Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Rich Bireley,
DPR Registration**

**Debbie Daniels,
DPR Registration**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**

**David Kratville,
CDFA**